

West Virginia

Agricultural Statistics

Service

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2002 FARM NUMBERS AND TOTAL LAND IN FARMS

WEST VIRGINIA -- The number of farms in West Virginia totaled 20,500 in 2002, unchanged from 2001 and 2000. The total land in farms was 3.6 million acres, also the same as 2001 and 2000. The average farm size was 176 acres, unchanged from 2001 and 2000.

The West Virginia number of farms in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 economic sales class totaled 17,000. Land in farms for this sales class totaled 2.3 million acres. These were also unchanged from 2001 and 2000.

UNITED STATES -- The number of farms the United States in 2002 is estimated at 2.16 million, up 0.1 percent from 2001. The increase in farms occurred primarily in agricultural operations with \$1,000-\$9,999 in sales. Total land in farms, at 941.5 million acres, increased 170,000 acres from last year. The average size of farm, at 436 acres, decreased one acre from 2001. The increase in the number of farms and land in farms primarily resulted from the inclusion of pasture only farms in 2002.

The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class \$1,000-\$9,999 increased 1.0 percent to 1,172,770 in 2002. Farms with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 economic class decreased 0.9% from 2001 to 637,160 operations. The number of farms with sales over \$100,000 at 348,160 decreased 1.1 percent. Dry weather, below normal yields, and lower commodity prices contributed to the shifting of farms among the economic sales classes.

The number of farms in the South Region increased by 5,700, 0.6 percent, and the number of farms in the West Region increased by 510, 0.2 percent. The North Central Region lost 3,300 farms, 0.4 percent. The number of farms declined 500, or 0.4 percent in the Northeast Region.

The number of farms in 2002 increased in nine States, remained unchanged in 32 States, and decreased in nine States. Texas gained 3,000 farms while Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Oregon added 1,000 farms during the year. Arkansas, Montana, and South Carolina farms increased by 500. California, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Tennessee farms declined by 1,000. New York lost 500 farms and North Dakota lost 300.

Texas, which leads the Nation in acres in farms with 131 million acres, increased agricultural acreage during 2002 adding 1.0 million acres. States with decreases in land in farms were; Wisconsin, down 200,000 acres, and Arizona, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee which declined 100,000 acres. Other states losing agricultural acreage were Delaware, New Hampshire, and New Jersey, each down 10,000 acres.

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